

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Mr. Scott Kohlmeier	)	Attorney's Ref.: P114571
		)	
Serial No.:	10/735,195	)	
		)	Art Unit:
Filed:	12/12/03	)	
		)	
Title:	RESTRAINT SYSTEM, APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR LADDER SYSTEM	)	

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March 26, 2004

Date Carole Petralli  
Carole Petralli

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir or Madam,

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant respectfully submits this Information Disclosure Statement to call to the attention of the Examiner the references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A for consideration in the prosecution of the above-referenced application for U.S. patent. Copies of these references are attached hereto for the Examiner's convenience, along with an appropriately completed Form PTO/SB/08A.

**REMARKS**

The Applicant respectfully submits that the attached references neither anticipate nor render obvious the present invention.

U.S. 6,607,053 B1 (Warren) discloses a retractable safety cage to be used in a manhole, such as those that exist to service utilities (i.e. sewer, underground electrical power, etc.). This cage serves two purposes and one of these is described in column 1, beginning on line 32, where it indicates that the ladder in the manhole does not extend above the manhole entrance, thus making it difficult for the user to mount and dismount the top end of the ladder. Thus, there is a safety problem upon entering or exiting the manhole. Also, in the lower part of column 1, there is discussed the problem of people inadvertently falling into the manhole. Accordingly, there is provided in this patent a retractable cage which has two vertical members 28 that are connected at the lower ends to the side members of the ladder. The safety cage can be moved upwardly to its operating position of Fig. 1, where it extends from the location of the manhole opening upwardly. There are two U-shaped members 40 positioned one above the other, and these are connected to the side rails of the extendable cage. When the work on the manhole has been completed, the cage can be lowered downwardly into the vault that is below the manhole, and the cover closed.

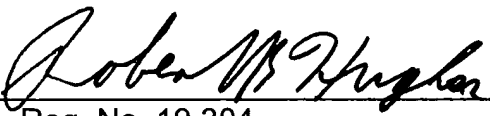
An additional feature is shown in Figs. 15 and 16, where there is provided a framework of several vertical members converging toward one another to support a hoist 75 having an end hook 77. This can be lowered into the vault above the manhole cover for various purposes, one of which would be to help the removal of an injured person.

U.S. 5,255,758 (Hood, Jr.) discloses a "protective ladder assembly for scaffolding structure." In Fig. 1 of this patent, there is shown the prior art scaffolding and protective cage assembly which comprises at least three non-weight bearing upright members 16a and the necessary straight horizontal member 16b at each level of connection. There is also provided a diagonal brace 18 for the support platform 15. Beginning in the middle of column 3 through column 4, there is a discussion of this prior art scaffolding and also the protective cages. Figure 2 illustrates the invention of this patent. Essentially, this comprises the U-shaped enclosure members that enclose the ladder.

U.S. 2,539,664 (Hay) shows what is called a "collapsible safety guard for Derrick ladders." The situation in which this concept is used is described in column 1 of the patent. In drilling into the ground, a derrick of considerable height is erected, and at frequent intervals it is necessary to withdraw the pipe from the hole in order to replace the bit. In this operation, it is required that a man known as the "derrick man" must be at a point near the top of the derrick. A ladder is provided in order that the derrick man may climb to his work position. In Fig. 1, there are shown two cross-members "a" which are part of the structure of the derrick. The safety guard comprises a plurality of U-shaped angle iron brackets "d" which surround the ladder "b" on all sides except the derrick side. The bracket has spaced apart slots or openings (see Fig. 3) through which a series of chains "c" are threaded. The end portions of each of the two straight side portions of the U-shaped bracket that are adjacent to the structural members "a" of the derrick are attached to these members "a." When the drilling operation is completed and the derrick is to be moved to another location, then the entire assembly of the angle iron brackets can be disconnected from the derrick and then moved to another location.

Signed at Bellingham, County of Whatcom, State of Washington, this  
Friday, March 26, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,  
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